



Department of Justice

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HOGSETT ANNOUNCES SENTENCING OF INDIVIDUAL TO 15 YEARS IN PRISON FOR ROLE IN ARMED ROBBERY CREW

PRESS RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS - Joseph H. Hogsett, United States Attorney, announced today that U.S. District Judge William T. Lawrence sentenced German Rivera-Ruiz, 34, to serve 15 years in federal prison following his plea of guilty to interfering with interstate commerce by robbery and using a firearm during the commission of a crime of violence.

Between January 27, 2009, and March 24, 2009, a series of armed robberies occurred in the central Indiana area, including three grocery stores and a Mexican restaurant located in Frankfort, Noblesville, Westfield, and Indianapolis. In all of the robberies, at least one perpetrator was armed with a handgun, which was displayed during the robbery. Based on witness descriptions and video surveillance from the businesses, police concluded the perpetrators were a group of males later identified as Manuel Perez, Eduardo Ramirez, Juan Valdez, Hector Tadeo-Martinez and German Rivera-Ruiz. On March 24, 2009, Manuel Perez and German Rivera-Ruiz were taken into custody after they participated in the robbery of the La Pasadita restaurant in Frankfort, Indiana. A loaded Taurus, 9mm pistol was recovered from the vehicle being driven by Perez. On March 28, 2009, Eduardo Ramirez and Juan Valdez were separately taken into custody for their involvement in the armed robberies. Ramirez was arrested during a traffic stop by IMPD, and a Hipoint, model C, 9mm pistol was recovered from his vehicle.

In separate proceedings prior to last week's sentencing, Ramirez, Perez, Valdez, and Tadeo also pled guilty and were sentenced for their involvement in the robbery crew. Ramirez was sentenced to fifteen years, Perez was sentenced to 10 years, Tadeo-Martinez was sentenced to nine years, and Valdez received a seven year sentence. All defendants will be required to serve at least 85% of the imposed term of imprisonment. Additionally, during the course of the investigation, U.S. Immigration officials determined that Ramirez, Valdez, Tadeo-Martinez, and Rivera-Ruiz were all undocumented aliens unlawfully present in the United States. They will be

turned over to immigration officials after serving their sentences and face deportation. Perez, who was a lawful permanent resident of the United States at the time of his arrest, will also likely face deportation from the United States upon completion of his sentence.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew J. Rinka, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Lawrence also imposed five year terms of supervised release on Rivera, which will follow his release from prison. Perez, Valdez, Ramirez, and Rivera were also ordered to pay approximately \$1,750 in restitution to the businesses and employees they robbed.

This case was the result of a year long investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Boone County Sheriff's Department, Clinton County Sheriff's Department, Westfield Police Department, Noblesville Police Department, and the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department.

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